

The Steuben House
New Bridge Road
River Edge, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-47

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Steuben House
New Bridge Road
River Edge, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1729; altered in 1757

Architect:

Builder: John Zabriskie

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - sandstone,
brick gables

Interior walls - plaster on
masonry

Roof - gambrel, wood shingles

Historical Data:

The original house was about half as long and only two-thirds as deep as the present structure. The original roof was pitch. When the house was enlarged in 1757, the original ridge became the gable plate of the gambrel roof of the enlarged house. The first and second floor levels are half a story higher than the original part; a possible reason for this is that it made the exterior doors an excellent height above the ground for unloading hay, grain, and the like from a wagon.

H.E.
1. Review

The chief interest about this house is the fact that it was the property of Baron von Steuben. The Baron came to America in 1777. He became Inspector General with the rank of Major General. He received grants from Congress and from various states. In 1782 Congress voted him \$2400 plus \$300 per month. In 1790 he received an annuity of \$2500 for life. Pennsylvania granted him 2000 acres; Virginia granted him 10,000 acres; New York granted him 16,000 acres, and from the State of New Jersey he received the forfeited estate of John Zabriskie. He received his later grant in 1783. The agreement stated that it was for his use as long as he resided there, but the Baron did not wish to stay there. The State of New Jersey agreed that the property could be sold and the interest from the principal was to be given to him for his life time. His aid-de-camp, Captain Walker, bought it for 1500 pounds; Captain Walker actually bought it for the Baron. In 1786 he was granted the house and income of the estate, even though his residence was in another state, and finally in 1788 the property was given to him. Three months after this, he sold the property to John Zabriskie for 1200 pounds.

Bibliography:

Linn, William A. Baron Steuben Estate
New Bridge, Bergen County, New Jersey
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Historical Society, February 22, 1904

Dunlop, Wallace, local historian

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

Reviewed
September 2, 1936
H.W.

ADDENDUM TO:
ZABRISKIE-STEUBEN HOUSE
New Bridge Road
River Edge
Bergen County
New Jersey

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